GDP in Social Sector

*214. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the net expenditure, as percentage of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), in social sector is still low in comparison to some of the developed economies;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government's expenditure on social services and rural development has been increased over the years but it has hardly any impact on the overall poverty reduction and improvement in the social security net;

(d) if so, whether despite improvement in Central allocations, there are still leakages in the system which are preventing the benefits from reaching the intended target groups; and

(e) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) As per Human Development Report 2007-08 released by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the government expenditure on health and education which constitute the major components of social welfare for India are estimated at 0.9% and 3.8% of GDP respectively. However, if the private expenditure on health is taken into account, the share of total expenditure on health will work out to be 4.25% of GDP in 2004-05. Similarly, inclusion of investment in education by private sector will increase the percentage share of education in GDP. The comparable numbers for some of the developed and developing countries are given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The government expenditure, for Centre and States combined, on social and community services as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to have increased from 5.2% in 2002-03 to 6.5% in 2008-09. The government expenditure on rural development during this period has increased from 0.9% of GDP to 1% of GDP. The budget allocation for social and community services and rural development for 2008-09 of Eleventh Five Year Plan was 6.5 % and 1% of GDP respectively. The details of expenditure on social and community services and rural development and their share in GDP are given in Statement-II (*See* below).

There has been a decline in the total number of persons living below poverty line during the period 1993-94 to 2004-05 and the poverty ratio which was 36 per cent in 1993-94 has come down to 27.5 per cent in 2004-05. The Eleventh Five Year Plan (2007-12) envisages reduction in the headcount ratio of consumption poverty by 10 percentage points. To achieve the objective of inclusive growth and to alleviate poverty in the country the Government has taken initiatives through direct interventions by implementing programmes such as: National Rural Employment Guarantee

Scheme (NREGS), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Mid Day Meal Scheme (MDMS), Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), and the Total Sanitation Campaign etc. The Government has taken various measures to ensure that the actual benefits of various programmes reach the intended target groups. These include intensive monitoring at various levels, participation of public, bringing transparency and use of modern technology.

Statement-I

Public Expenditure on Health and Education in selected countries (As % of GDP)

Countries	Expenditure on health (% of GDP) 2004	Expenditure on education (% of GDP) 2002-05
US	6.9	5.9
UK	7.0	5.4
Germany	8.2	4.6
France	8.2	5.9
South Africa	3.5	5.4
India	0.9	3.8
Pakistan	0.4	2.3
China	1.8	1.9
Phillipines	1.4	2.7
Indonesia	1.0	0.9

Source: Human Development Report 2007-08, UNDP.

Statement-II

Details of expenditure on social and community services and Rural Development and their share in GDP

	Actual values (Rs. Crores)				Share in GDP (%)		
Year	Social and community services	Social security and welfare	Rural development	GDP at current prices	Social and community services	Social security and welfare	Rural development
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2002-03	127531	6563.63	23111.6	2454561	5.2%	0.3%	0.9%
2003-04	141630	8561.95	26339.3	2754620	5.1%	0.3%	1.0%
2004-05	162064	10352.5	26522.8	3149407	5.1%	0.3%	0.8%

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2005-06	189298	15108.7	36767.8	3586743	5.3%	0.4%	1.0%
2006-07	227952	18225.7	41990	4129174	5.5%	0.4%	1.0%
2007-08 RE	287826	26612.5	46341.2	4723400	6.1%	0.6%	1.0%
2008-09 BE	344184	33840.5	53437.3	5321753	6.5%	0.6%	1.0%

Source: Indian Public Finance Statistics 2008-09.

Appointment of disabled persons as chairpersons

*215. SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal/suggestions have been received to the effect that only disabled persons be appointed as chairperson or on the positions of importance in Commission for the disabled and various Government institutions for the welfare of the disabled;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any plan for this important matter; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): (a) No Commission for Persons with Disabilities exists at present. A suggestion has been received *inter alia* for setting up of a National Commission for Welfare of Physically Challenged and appointment of an active renowned physically challenged person as Chairman of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC).

(b) and (c) The Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995, already envisages appointment of a Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities to *inter alia* safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities. Act also lays down eligibility criteria for appointment to this office.

Appointments to posts are made keeping in view the prescribed eligibility criteria and in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Nuclear reactors from USA

*216. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plans to purchase Nuclear Reactor from USA during the coming years; and